

## SMALL PLANTERS' GRIEVANCES ARE LAID BEFORE COMMITTEE

Losing Money Under Present  
Treatment By Large Sugar  
Mills, Witnesses Say

"Life for the small planter is just one deduction after another. It is impossible under existing conditions for the small planter to make any money."

That was the way A. M. Cabrera, a little merchant and former planter, summed up present conditions in the sugar raising industry at the third hearing of the house agricultural committee on the Holstein resolution asking for a congressional investigation of the industry.

Of the three witnesses who testified last night, only one had any very definite solution to offer. He stated in a document filed with the committee that a central sugar mill owned by the government could make money for both the small planter and itself. A. Macaulon, a cane planter at Thirteenth-Miles, in the James Lewis Homestead Association tract, cited his experiences as an example.

Macaulon said he was 55 years old and came to Hawaii in 1883. He said that when he started raising cane he owned all his land in fee simple. There are about 100 acres, he said.

He started raising cane at Thirteenth-Miles in 1898 and sold his cane to the Olan plantation until this year under a "1905" contract. He cited the 1914 crop disposal as an example. He said he received \$1,049.84 from the sugar mill company for his crop and that his expenses were \$1,184.19, a loss to himself of \$134.35. His expenses, he said, did not include the labor of himself and wife.

Macaulon cited the figures of \$32 a ton which former Governor Carter declared was the cost of producing sugar and hauling to the Delawares wharf. Based on that figure, the witness said, the sugar mill made a profit of \$152 an acre from his 14 1/2 acre plantation, while he, Macaulon, lost \$134.35. At this juncture the lights in the capital went out and although the room was crowded enough with "dark lights," yet the room remained in darkness for more than 30 minutes.

Macaulon also related his experiences with a 15-acre plantation at Twenty-three Miles. When his two-year crop came to maturity, he said he offered it to the Olan company for 25 cents in the field. The company refused, he said, but offered to purchase it "at the mill." Accordingly Macaulon contracted with a Japanese to cut the cane and deliver it at the mill for \$3.50 a ton. The price of sugar was high at that time, the witness declared, and the mill shut down, leaving Macaulon with the cane in the field. When the mill reopened the price had dropped, and Macaulon found he couldn't make money at the bottom figure, so is now feeding his crop to the pigs.

The "deductions" which all of the witnesses complained of were best explained by Macaulon. He said that if his crop was 50 tons, only about 25 tons would be allowed on the first weighing, the eight tons being taken off "for tare." Then he complained, a "chemical deduction" was made. He said that under the rate used with holders of "1905" contracts, he was to be deducted on the chemical analysis according to the examination on his own cane. The "1913 contract," he said, contained a clause whereby the average of the entire Olan cane yield for the day was the basis of deduction for all.

Macaulon said that he held a "1905" contract and that Manager Beckart of the Olan company informed him that the average deduction would be made in his case, although his cane showed a higher percentage of juice than did the other Olan fields. Macaulon said he questioned this action but to no avail. Two witnesses said that the plantation demanded \$1 a ton in addition to all other charges.

"What was that, for?" he was asked.

"I never could find out, although I had several talks with Mr. Beckart about that extra dollar."

High Interest Rate Alleged.

The witness said that it was necessary for himself and other planters to borrow money by way of advances from the mills.

"How much interest did you pay?" Attorney Lewis, who is representing the small planters, asked him.

"Eight per cent," compounded monthly.

The spectators gasped when the white-whiskered old gentleman answered.

Macaulon said that it was "dangerous" for a planter to approach the dealer who weighed his cane for the sugar mill; and that it was necessary for the planter to take the company at its word.

"I have nothing whatever to say as

to the time my cane shall be cut," the witness said.

"Didn't the mill cut its own crop first when the price was high?" Senator Desha asked.

"I couldn't say that," Macaulon said.

John E. Gamalielson of Kaunua, Hawaii, was next to condemn the present system. He said that he owned and controlled 200 acres on Hawaii and had \$5000 in cash 11 years ago when he started raising cane for the Hilo Sugar Company. He said that he lost large sums of money, and that several years later he sued the company, but lost when the defendant company pleaded successfully under the statute of limitation. He admitted having given up his old contract.

Gamalielson said he lost \$50,000 and 11 years of his own labor. He said that it is impossible for a small planter to make money under the Brewer contracts, the common Hawaii variety. Cabrera was the next. He said he was a merchant and after he had given considerable information criticizing the Hilo Sugar Company, Judge Lindsey, acting for the committee, interrupted him.

"But did you ever have any actual experience in cane raising yourself?" he asked.

"I should say I did," was the quick reply. "I lost \$2300 to our Olan plantation friend, Mr. Watt, over there."

He pointed to the former plantation manager sitting in the gallery seats. "And I had to sue him." A laugh greeted this reply.

Representative Francis, a member of the committee, attempted to convince the witness that it cost the company at least \$15 a ton for marketing expense.

"Does it?" retorted Cabrera. "New I tell you it cost \$10-\$15 for expenses and reasonable profit and \$2 extra for your trust. Now if you want to tack on an extra \$5, all right. It doesn't make matters much better for the sugar mills."

Just before the hearing came to close Attorney Lewis asked to subpoena Commissioner of Lands Joshua Tucker to testify and produce correspondence between George Williams, a sub-agent at Hilo, and Tucker, which concerns dealings between G. Kumohou and the Launahoe Sugar Company. Tucker will appear Friday night.

## FRAME BILL FOR UNITING AGENCIES FOR FARM STUDY

Consolidation of the experimental stations of the United States government, the territory and of the College of Hawaii will be provided for in a bill now being drawn up for presentation in the legislature by Attorney C. R. Hemenway, acting for the legislative committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Information along the lines proposed in the bill will be gathered by the members of the house of representatives tomorrow when the solons will visit the quarantine station, experimental station, agricultural bureau and the College of Hawaii in automobiles. In addition to these places, the legislators will visit the Girls' Industrial School on another matter.

In a report filed several weeks ago, Jared Smith recommended to the chamber, after a committee investigation, that this consolidation be effected. It is said thousands of dollars will be annually saved and that the experimental work will be better carried out.

Of course the assent of the federal government is necessary to the plan insofar as it affects the federal station.

TONIGHT'S BAND PROGRAM.

The Hawaiian band, under the leadership of Capt. Henri Berger, will give a public concert in Lanakila home, Palama, at 7:30 tonight. The following program will be played:

March—The Conqueror.....Telke  
Overture—The Light Cavalry.....Suppe  
Intermezzo—The Fox Trot.....Prior  
Selection—The Rose of Shiraz.....

Vocal—Hawaiian Songs ar. by Berger  
Selection—Romances.....Zikoff  
Waltz—Golden Showers.....Waldteufel  
Marches—Hail and Mail.....Berger  
Hawai Pono

The Star Spangled Banner.

Charles Williamson walked into Heckenschalk police headquarters and asked for a night's lodging. He said he could write in ten languages. He added that his college education had not done him much good.

## GERMAN OFFICIAL CABLEGRAMS

The following cablegram was received today from official German sources: "WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.—German headquarters report March 24:

"In Champagne today only artillery duels are occurring.

"North of Pont-a-Mousson the enemy trying the win back ground gained by Germany were repulsed. New attacks by the enemy northeast of Badonviller and on Reichsackerkopf broke down under German fire. Fighting is going on at Hartmannswillerkopf.

"German troops pursuing the retreating Russians northward of Meinel, have taken prisoner near Polangen 500 Russians. They have taken also three machine guns and plenty of cattle, horses and other goods stolen by the Russians. Near Laggzargen, southwest of Taurroggen and northeast of Mariampol, Russian attacks have been repulsed with heavy losses for the enemy. Northwest of Ostroienka several Russian attacks failed. Here the Germans took prisoner 20 officers and more than 2500 men, as well as five machine guns. Also eastward of Plock several enemy charges have failed.

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## BILL IN SENATE HAS PROVISION FOR BOY SCOUTS

Official recognition of the work and worth of the boy scouts is to be accorded them if Senator James L. Cocke's measure, S. B. 77, becomes law. It provides an appropriation of \$1000 for equipment and other expenses of the juvenile organization. The bill was introduced in the upper branch of the legislature yesterday.

The senate did not finish consideration of Metzger's Hawaii county reorganization bill yesterday and it was scheduled for further hearing in committee of the whole today. It is meeting some opposition from members other than those representing the Big Island people and the general sentiment seems to be that it stands small chance of becoming law. The feeling among the members from the other islands is that the measure is too radical and it was said this morning that an attempt probably will be made to put the proposition before the people of Hawaii county in the form of a plebiscite, to ascertain definitely whether they approve its provisions.

Several members took occasion yesterday to criticize severely Fair Commissioner H. P. Wood for his laxity in granting contracts for work on the Hawaii exhibit, and Senator Cocke for one declared he believed a careful analysis of the accounts would show extravagance and serious carelessness on the commissioner's part. The printing bill of the Paradise of the Pacific, over which the discussion developed, was finally passed by the senate on this morning. An amendment to the bill, "incurred by the board of commissioners without first having advertised for tenders as provided by law," Wood is blamed for the failure.

Among the new bills offered yesterday is S. B. 72, by Wirtz, fixing a tax of a cent a pound on automobiles. It is understood, however, that the present law fixes practically the same tax on motor cars.

Pennhall's S. B. 73 would make a \$5000 emergency appropriation for Lahaina Industrial school. Metzger introduced two measures to simplify civil and criminal procedure in the circuit courts.

On recommendation of the finance committee the bill to pension William Crook, for 32 years a teacher in the territory, passed second reading in the house.

The governor today signed two more bills. They are S. B. 12, extending the franchise of the Hawaiian Electric Company, which becomes Act 22 of the new revised laws, and S. B. 20, extending the franchise of the Honolulu Gas Company, which becomes Act 24.

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## \$20,000 PAVING ON ALLEN STREET ALREADY BEGUN

Preliminary work was started by Jos. A. Gilman, president and manager of the Bitulithic and Concrete Paving Company, this morning on the Allen street improvement. Although the contract had not been signed by Mayor Lane and Clerk Kalaauokalani for the city and county up till noon, the major desiring some changes in its wording as well as the advice of the attorney on the matter of the bond, it was expected at that time that the formalities would be concluded at an early hour.

According to the contract Allen street will be paved with bitulithic on a 6-inch crushed rock base, from Port street to the Waikiki side of Richards street, the price being \$20,293 but the actual payment to be on a yardage basis. By the laying of a durable pavement on this street there will be removed the cause of the longstanding complaint that arriving passengers at Alakea street and Richards street piers, where many of the big liners dock, receive their first impression of Honolulu from a mud lane.

A bill was introduced in the house this morning to reimburse the city and county to the amount of \$20,000 for its contract expenditure on Allen street, the preamble showing that the abutting property is entirely owned by the territory.

The same mistake was made by the 25th infantry trumpeter and the 35th was the last regiment to get on the line. The rain was practically over when this regiment left their barracks and they were the only regiment that did not get in on the shower bath.

The sun came out brightly as the troops passed in review and a fine showing was made by the four regiments.

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